

Your Water Department Working For You

- ✧ A leak detection survey is conducted every two years. This survey analyzed over 286 miles of water distribution piping.
- ✧ The survey conducted in 2008 found 98 leaking pipes and hydrants.
- ✧ Repairs to the 98 leaks saved 57.8 million gallons of water and \$31,798.00 in costs.
- ✧ In 2009 the Department repaired 85 service and 32 water main leaks. The majority of the repairs were made within 24 hours.

Inside Your Home *(continued)*

Lighten Your Loads

- ✧ Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes or lower the water settings for smaller loads.
- ✧ Replace your old washing machine with a high-efficiency, Energy STAR® labeled model and a CEE water factor rating of 7.5 or less.



Department of Public Infrastructure Water Division

1105 Shawmut Avenue
New Bedford, MA 02746

508-979-1556

Additional Information

www.epa.gov/water_sense

www.waterwiser.org

www.mass.gov/dep

www.ceel.org

www.energysavers.gov

*This brochure has been financed with
Federal Funds from the
Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA)
to the Massachusetts Department of
Environmental Protection under a
Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving
Loan Fund set aside Grant.*

Jon Mitchell
Mayor

Things
You Can
Do To
Prevent
Water Waste



Inside Your Home

Toilets are the single largest water user in a home. A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons of water per day, and it is estimated that nearly 20 percent of all toilets leak.

Get Flush With Savings

- ✱ Consider replacing your older toilet with a WaterSense labeled high-efficiency model that uses 20 percent less water and performs as well as or better than standard models. Compared to a 3.5 gallons per flush toilet, a WaterSense labeled toilet could save a family of four more than \$90 annually on their water bill, and \$20,000 over the lifetime of the toilet.
- ✱ Check for toilet leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the bowl within 15 minutes. (Make sure to flush as soon as the test is done, since food coloring may stain the tank).

Accessorize Your Faucet

- ✱ Installing a simple aerator is one of the most cost-effective ways to save water – you can double the faucet's efficiency without sacrificing performance. For best results, purchase an aerator with the WaterSense label.
- ✱ Repair dripping faucets and showerheads. A drip rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year.

Clean Up With Savings

- ✱ A full bathtub can require up to 70 gallons of water, while taking a 5-minute shower uses only 10 to 25 gallons.
- ✱ Savings from turning off the tap while you brush your teeth or shave can really add up. (See back page)

Outside The Home

Water When Needed

- ✱ If necessary, water your lawn and garden during the cool morning hours to reduce evaporation.
- ✱ Look for sprinklers that produce droplets – not mist – or use soaker hoses or trickle irrigation for trees and shrubs.
- ✱ Set sprinklers to water lawns and gardens only – check that you're not watering the street or sidewalk.
- ✱ Try not to overwater your landscaping – learn plants water needs and water different types appropriately.

Grow Green Grass

- ✱ Don't over fertilize. You will increase the grass's need for water.
- ✱ Raise your lawn mower blade to at least 3 inches. Taller grass promotes deeper roots, shades the root system, and holds soil moisture better than a closely cropped lawn.

Garden With Care

- ✱ Plant climate-appropriate species. Try native plants, which don't require as much water, and group plants together by water requirements.
- ✱ Use mulch around trees and plants to help reduce evaporation and control water-stealing weeds.



Save Water – And Your Wallet \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

Size of Leak	Gallons	Per	Water & Sewer Costs
1/32"	265	DAY	\$2.00
	7,920	MONTH	\$59.77
	96,360	YEAR	\$727.20
1/16"	943	DAY	\$7.12
	28,290	MONTH	\$213.50
	344,195	YEAR	\$3,597.52
1/8"	3,806	DAY	\$28.72
	114,180	MONTH	\$861.68
	1,389,190	YEAR	\$10,483.75
1/4"	15,226	DAY	\$114.91
	456,780	MONTH	\$3,447.17
	5,557,460	YEAR	\$41,940.52

